

From: Les Lohmann
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 11:45pm
Subject: MS Settlement

Dear Sirs/Madam,

I have been using computers since 1968.

Up until MS abused their monopoly position by tying retail products to the OS, there was a pretty clear separation between the OS, which offers services primarily to retail programs (software) and retail software.

Since MS began truly flaunting their position of power, the availability and usefulness of retail software has diminished tangibly. Walk through any software shop (that has survived) and look at the selections. There are a lot of Games, but most else is MS.

Interestingly, now MS is beginning to compete in Games. They already include several in the OS, thus justifying including more, since the government has also turned a blind eye to this situation. Soon, MS will also be the behemoth of games.

There is only one fair solution. Frankly, even Mr. Gates will prosper. MS should not be permitted to produce any retail (defined by others) software. The company should be split in two, permitting an even playing ground for everyone.

The health of computing and the economy depend on true open competition. The proposed settlement fails to even scratch the surface.

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While I am a US citizen, I believe the issues transcends national boundaries.

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